



Greetings in Christ,

The world has certainly been upended this week. In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and on advice of the medical community, the MBC Board has put together the following update.

Firstly, we believe God is definitely at work in and through us as we navigate this crisis alongside our friends, families, and neighbours. Thank you for praying for wisdom for leaders everywhere as we navigate this unprecedented time. We continue to hold you all up in pray as well.

Secondly, the situations both globally and locally continue to quickly evolve. We believe that people's health and safety are incredibly important. We also believe that fear, worry and anxiety are powerful tools the enemy uses against us. The decisions within have not been taken lightly or made out of fear, but on the advice of medical professionals.

Services and Programming

Effective March 18, 2020 all normal delivery of services and programming will be effectively stopped. This means no Sunday services (at the Church), Youth or Children's programming (at the Church), or any mass-gatherings that would typically be hosted by MBC. This hasn't been 'government mandated' as of today, but taking stock of global and national affairs, we forecast it to be coming in days or weeks. We plan to re-evaluate this stoppage in 30 days. People are encouraged to stay home.

Community and Prayer

Our ministry leaders are working hard to put together plans, resources, and platforms that you can use to help disciple your family, those around you, and connect as a church community. We will keep you updated as to how you can access these resources as they become available.

If you would like to be part of a local prayer effort, Nicky has already set up a prayer thread on the Church Facebook page. We encourage people who have prayer requests (loved ones afflicted, prayer for medical teams responding, dealing with worry or anxiety) to go there – people will be able to connect and to pray with you, even if we're not able to be physically together.

Encouragement and World Interactions

Pastor John has been walking us through the New Testament lately, and we wanted to pass on some encouragement from his recent sermons as we enter a new era. In 1 John 4:18-19 we read **"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us."** We encourage everyone to show Christian love in times like these, and let your light and the Hope of Christ shine in a world full of darkness. The Apostle Paul also writes in Phillipians 4:6-7 **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"**. Stay strong in Christ and keep well.

Peace be with you all;

The MBC Board